



# SHOT TALK



## ACIP Recommends New Vaccine

On June 21, 2000, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the routine use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) marketed as *Prevnar*® for all children 23 months of age and younger, and for children 24–59 months of age who are at high risk for serious pneumococcal disease. This includes children with sickle cell disease, HIV infection, chronic illness, or weakened immune systems.

The committee voted to recommend that the vaccine be given to all infants at 2, 4, 6, and 12–15 months of age. Children who are unvaccinated and are 7–11 months of age should be given a total of 3 doses, and children who are unvaccinated and are 12–23 months of age should be given a total of 2 doses. Children at-risk that are unvaccinated at 24 months of age or older need one or two doses of vaccine.

The ACIP also voted to recommend that the vaccine be considered for all children age 24–59 months, with priority given to children at moderate risk for invasive pneumococcal disease. This includes all children aged 24–35 months, children of American Indian, Alaskan Native or African American descent, and children who attend out-of-home group child care.

On June 6, 2000, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

published its recommendation on the use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for infants and children. To obtain a copy, visit AAP's website at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

As mentioned in the June *Shot Talk*, the vaccine *Prevnar*® is not yet available through the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (SAMHD) Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Federal funding to purchase the vaccine has yet to be awarded. The SAMHD will notify all VFC providers when the vaccine becomes available through the VFC Program. For more information on the vaccine you may contact Wyeth-Ayerst at [www.prevnar.com](http://www.prevnar.com). or call 1-800-572-8221.

Source: *Needle Tips* August 2000.

## National Adult Immunization Awareness Week

"Prevention for a Healthy Future" is this year's theme for National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW) which will be commemorated October 8-14, 2000. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) joins numerous adult immunization focus groups across the nation in working to educate the public and providers about vaccine-preventable diseases

that continue to threaten the lives of thousands of adults each year. It is estimated that over 50,000 adults die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications in the United States.

Among those diseases that affect adults are hepatitis A and B, influenza, pneumococcal disease, meningitis, rubella, tetanus, measles, mumps, diphtheria, and varicella. The SAMHD encourages adults and adolescents to stay current on ten-year tetanus/diphtheria (Td) boosters and to receive annual influenza immunizations, especially individuals that suffer from chronic diseases of the heart, lungs, and/or metabolic system.

If you would like to promote NAIW, contact the **National Coalition for Adult Immunization**, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-5228, (301) 656-0003, fax (301) 907-0878, e-mail [www.ncai@nfdi.org](mailto:www.ncai@nfdi.org). for a NAIW campaign kit.

Immunize for Healthy Lives

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Prevnar Recommended</i>	Page 1	<i>QA/AFIX Participation</i>	Page 3
<i>Adult Immunization Week</i>	Page 1	<i>Are You Up to Date?</i>	Page 4
<i>Flu News</i>	Page 2	<i>VFC Program Reminders</i>	Page 4
<i>RSV Season</i>	Page 2	<i>VFC Continues Growing</i>	Page 4
<i>Combination Vaccine Trial</i>	Page 2	<i>Back to School 2000</i>	Page 4
<i>Hepatitis A Recommendation</i>	Page 2	<i>Foreign Travel Services</i>	Page 4



## Flu News

In June, the influenza vaccine manufacturers told the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expect delays in flu vaccine shipments and, based on current estimates, it appears likely that there will be a reduction of available influenza vaccine for the 2000-2001 season. With this in mind, the CDC recommends that large-scale vaccination campaigns begin mid-to-late November. Many people who routinely receive their influenza (flu) vaccination during mass flu campaigns in October may have to wait until November or December this year. Private physicians who receive their vaccine are encouraged to give priority to vaccinating those individuals who are at high-risk for complications from influenza during regular health care visits.

Those considered to be high-risk for complications from influenza, include the following:

- persons aged 65 and older,
- residents of any age who reside in nursing homes and who have chronic medical conditions,
- adults and children (aged 6 months and older) who have chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular disease (including asthma),
- individuals who required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the past year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus),
- individuals with kidney dysfunction, blood disorders, or immune system problems,
- children and teenagers (aged 6 months to 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye Syndrome after influenza infection,
- women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season.

Health care workers and employees of hospitals, clinics, offices, and chronic care institutions

who care for persons at high risk from complications of influenza should also receive influenza vaccination.

The SAMHD will postpone its flu campaign until early or mid-November due to delays in vaccine production and delivery. Upon receipt of flu vaccine, the SAMHD will target high-risk populations prior to vaccinating the healthy population. If you are a provider and are unable to secure your shipment of flu vaccine by November for your high-risk patients, contact the SAMHD at 207-8877 or 207-2084 to obtain a listing of vaccine suppliers or the 2000-2001 flu clinic locations.

## RSV Season To Arrive Soon

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the leading cause of lower respiratory tract infections in infants and young children. Each year, RSV is responsible for more than 90,000 hospitalizations and approximately 2% of those infants die. RSV may also cause long-term health problems, including asthma. RSV is ubiquitous, highly contagious, and potentially devastating to high-risk patients. The approval of Synagis® (palivizumab) for intramuscular administration now provides healthcare professionals an effective RSV prophylaxis in infants and children with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) or premature birth ( $\leq 35$  weeks gestation).

The SAMHD recommends that your patients with a diagnosis of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), chronic lung disease (CLD), and/or born  $\leq 35$  weeks' gestation be considered for this preventive measure since these infants have the highest risk for severe RSV disease. The SAMHD will be administering Synagis® to eligible children at the Main Immunization Center, located at 345 W. Commerce. In order to qualify for this product, primary care physicians must obtain pre-certification and refer infants to the SAMHD. The SAMHD will administer Synagis® by appointment only for the 2000-2001 season (October through March). For more

## Shot Talk

information call Brenda Lemke at 207-6916.

Source: <sup>1</sup>Sigurs N, et al. *Respiratory Syncytial Virus Bronchiolitis in Infancy Is an Important Risk Factor for Asthma and Allergy at Age 7*. *AM. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 2000; 161:1501-1507.

## New Combination Vaccine

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is currently conducting an immunization investigational study with a vaccine called *PENTACEL*™. This is a combination vaccine containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis, inactivated poliomyelitis, and haemophilus influenzae type B. This clinical trial is being conducted in conjunction with Aventis-Pasteur, Inc. for children approximately two months of age (6 weeks to 12 weeks).

The purpose of this study is to determine the efficacy of this vaccine. *PENTACEL*™ reduces the number of injections children receive from three separate injections, to one, while simultaneously providing protection from these childhood diseases. Infants enrolled in this study will receive all other required childhood immunizations through the age of fifteen months. Infants who are eligible to participate in this study will also be vaccinated with Hepatitis B and Prevnar®. This study will last approximately sixteen months and will require enrolled children to visit the Health Department's Main Immunization Clinic at 345 W. Commerce for routine immunizations. For more information please contact, Brenda Lemke at 207-6916.



## Expanded Hepatitis A Recommendations

In April 2000, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) named San Antonio/Bexar County as one of twenty-two intermediate rate counties for the occurrence of Hepatitis A. As one of these twenty-two counties, the SAMHD began recommending

immunizing children between the ages of **2-5 years** with the two dose series of Hepatitis A vaccine. **To be consistent with the guidelines set forth by the Texas Department of Health, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, SAMHD is expanding the target group to 2-12 year olds.** Please note that vaccination of children with Hepatitis A vaccine is **not a school requirement for Bexar County**, as was mandated for the thirty-two border counties in 1999. However, it is **strongly recommended**.

The SAMHD began making the Hepatitis A vaccine available to VFC Providers for the expanded age group on **July 15, 2000**. All providers are encouraged to immunize VFC-eligible children in the 2-12 year age group with the complete series (2 doses-6-12 months apart) of Hepatitis A vaccine. Due to funding constraints, the SAMHD is asking VFC Providers to limit the use of this vaccine to only the 2-12 year old group at this time.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) resolution, dated February 1999, speaks to the need to immunize young children since asymptomatic children can be a source of infection for older persons in the community. If your staff needs additional information on vaccine storage, route of administration, vaccination schedule, dosage, efficacy, side effects, and adverse events, please refer to the **MMWR, October 1, 1999, vol. 48, no. RR-12**.

### Quality Assurance Team

The Quality Assurance/AFIX Team has grown over the last three months adding two new members. They are Jeanette Sanchez, Administrative Assistant I, and Rosemary Rodriguez, Administrative Aide. The QA/AFIX Team has been

quite busy conducting VFC site visits and records reviews in public and private provider locations. We wish to thank the following providers for their participation in the assessment and site visit process:

Dr. Salvador Garcia, Dr. Jose Karam, Dr. Hugo Muzza, Dr. Rosalio Jalomo, Dr. Jose Gamboa, Dr. Enrique Galan, Northeast Pediatric Associates, Dr. Janna Wilder, Dr. Federico Padua, Northside Pediatric Clinic, Dr. Francis Mueller, San Antonio Pediatric Associates, San Antonio Pediatric Associates (M & S), Dr. Luis Cantu, Health Texas Medical Group, El Centro Del Barrio Health Center for the Homeless, Dr. Shantha Kesavulu, Child Care Associates, Northwest Pediatrics Associates, Dr. Guillermo Marcos, Northwest Pediatrics Associates, Crestway Medical Clinic P.A., Children's Shelter, Dr. Maria Aguirre-Hernandez, Dulnig House, Dr. William Weise, Holy Cross Family Practice, Borestein, Lipsitt, Johnson, Maxwell & Scott, Las Palmas Minor Emergency Clinic, Family Clinics of San Antonio, SAMHD Nursing Services Clinics, SAMHD Immunization Clinics, SAMHD WIC Clinics.

The QA/AFIX Team's methodology for conducting assessments is derived from computer software developed by the CDC. The software utilizes three methods for producing useful practice-based assessment information.

The Hybrid Method is a computerized screening tool used to help determine if a provider's immunization coverage level is at or below a specific threshold. It uses a Lot Quality Assurance (LQA) sampling method of 30 records and usually takes a few hours to conduct. Unfortunately, LQA does not have diagnostic capabilities to determine why a provider might have low immunization coverage levels. It uses a small sample size while providing some diagnostic information. Please keep in mind that the Hybrid Method is not designed to determine the

## Shot Talk

actual immunization coverage level for the practice but to determine if the practice is performing above or below a specific level.

The Mini Method uses a larger sample size of 50 records and provides for more diagnostic and coverage level information within the practice. The first step is to estimate the total number of active clients born between 12-35 months of age. In some cases where the proportion of "inactive" records in a filing system is unknown, it may be necessary to sample more than 50 records to assure a statistically valid sample is reviewed to analyze the active clinic population.

The Traditional Method reviews approximately 100 to 200 charts depending on the total number of active clients born between 12-23 months of age and 24-35 months of age. A total of 100 records from each age group are analyzed starting with the youngest child first and proceeding backwards until 100 records are analyzed for each age group. As mentioned above, where the proportion of "inactive" records in a filing system is unknown, it may be necessary to sample more than 200 records to assure a statistically valid sample is pulled to analyze the active clinic population.

If you have any questions or wish to schedule a site visit please feel free to call Keith Mason, QA/AFIX Coordinator at 207-8142 or email [kmason@ci.sat.tx.us](mailto:kmason@ci.sat.tx.us)

### Are You Up To Date?

Thanks to all VFC providers that have updated their VFC Provider Profile and Enrollment Form. If you have not updated your 2000 Profile and Enrollment your vaccine deliveries may be delayed. Please call Vivian Flores at 207-2868 to verify that your 2000 profile and enrollment have been received.





## VFC Reporting Reminders

As part of enrollment in the VFC program, providers must participate in regularly scheduled inservices, which detail program eligibility and requirements. Providers are required to submit accurate monthly reports that include a vaccine inventory, a vaccine waste report, and a temperature report by the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month. Providers are also required to submit complete, accurate, and legible immunization consent forms on a weekly basis in the provided pre-paid mailers. Failure to submit accurate reports and consents in a timely manner can result in vaccine delivery delays. To find out how well your organization is complying with program requirements, contact Jorge Reyes at 207-2862.

## VFC Reaches More Children

The following professionals have joined the VFC Program since the last issue of *Shot Talk*:

**Dr. Ramon G. Reyes, Blessed Sacrament Academy Charter High School Clinic, Southwest General Hospital, and Pinkston Family Practice. Welcome Aboard!**

If you have questions about joining the Vaccines for Children Program contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868 or email [vflores@ci.sat.tx.us](mailto:vflores@ci.sat.tx.us)

## 2000 Back to School Clinics

In an effort to help students and parents comply with the new state immunization regulations for Texas schools, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District in cooperation with radio stations KTSA/KTFM, sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Back-to-School Immunization Clinic held at Crossroads Mall on August 5, 2000. On August 12, the SAMHD, in collaboration with McDonalds and KVDA60 participated in the *Feria Escolar* at the La Villita Assembly Hall where school supplies and immunizations were provided. The goal of the 2000 Back to School Immunization Clinics was to continue to raise awareness about immunization issues and encourage members of our community to protect their children

from deadly diseases by immunizing them on time.

During the 2000 Back to School immunization drive 946 people were vaccinated and a total of 2,276 immunizations were given. The success of these clinics could not have been accomplished without the help of our community partners.

## Travel and Adult Services

In order to meet the growing needs of our community, the SAMHD has expanded our adult walk-in immunization services to include our satellite clinic located at 3600 Fredricksburg Rd. The following immunizations are available: tetanus, mumps, measles, and rubella, varicella, inactivated polio, hepatitis A & B, and meningococcal. Our regular business hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. TB skin testing is offered Monday, Tuesday and Friday. For information, call (210) 733-8913.

Our downtown office at 345 West Commerce, continues to offer adult walk-in immunizations Monday – Friday 7:45am to 5:00pm and foreign travel services by appointment only 9:00am to 3:30pm.

Recently the American College Health Association and several colleges and universities began recommending meningococcal vaccine for students living on campus, and especially college freshmen. This vaccine is now available on a walk-in basis at either of these two clinics.

For more information regarding the adult immunization program, you may call (210) 207-8877. For foreign travel vaccine or health information, please call (210) 207-8872.

## Retirement News

After 29 years of devoted and tireless service to the children of Texas, Robert D. Crider is retiring from the Texas Department of Health (TDH), Immunization Division on

## Shot Talk

October 29, 2000. As the Director of the Immunization Division for TDH, Mr. Crider has served the state of Texas and San Antonio well. He has always been an ardent supporter of the SAMHD Immunization Program and has never failed to lend his expertise and wisdom when called upon. Bob was a gracious and humorous speaker at three consecutive annual VFC Appreciation Breakfasts. Best of luck to Bob and his family from SAMHD.

## School Health Program

In January 2000, the SAMHD assigned Lisa Cisneros, RN, to function as a liaison between the SAMHD and the sixteen school districts in Bexar County. Ms. Cisneros will be working more closely with school nurses by offering assessment of the districts and specific individual school health needs. She will work with them on the development of action plans, consulting on public health issues, and serving as a health education and information resource. You may contact Lisa Cisneros, RN, at 227-1548 for more information.

## City Holidays

*Veteran's Day November 10, 2000*

*Thanksgiving Day & Day After November 23 & 24, 2000*

## Immunization Program Contacts

Program Operations:	
Mark Ritter, MHA	207-8794
Public Health Advisor:	
Thomas Finke, MPA	207-2870
Clinical Operations/Foreign Travel:	
Lynn Seeman, RN	207-8804
Hepatitis Program/Surveillance/Rabies:	
Nancy Walea, RN	207-2087
VFC Coordinator:	
Vivian Flores	207-2868
Vaccine Ordering:	
Anthony Johnson	921-1178
Infant Action Plan/WIC Linkage:	
Pamela Williams	207-2869
Vaccine Study Coordinator:	
Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-2859
Adolescent/Adult Program:	
Rita Salazar	207-8877
AFIX/QA Program	
Keith Mason	207-8142

**SAMHD:** [www.samhd.org](http://www.samhd.org)

**TDH:** [www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us)

**CDC:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)